

# 1972 BEST YEAR YET FOR SASKATOON BLUEBIRD HOUSE TRAIL

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This, the Saskatoon Junior's part of the trail, has remained fairly steady at 410 birdhouses of which 216 are in our main study area. As will be seen in the table, we had 25 pairs of Mountain Bluebirds, up from 12 pairs last year: they seem to double in numbers each year. We had, unfortunately, 48 pairs of House Sparrows; they have also made a great jump lately, perhaps because they prefer older house; last year we had only 17 pairs. And, with the four species on the trail, we had attained a remarkable 98.7% occupancy rate for our houses.

Another 21 houses were added after nesting this fall to join up with Mr. Jake Kargut in Langham. This is only his second year and Mr. Kargut now has 200 birdhouses in use, extending as far as Borden. This year he had 45 pairs of Mountain Bluebirds, 101 pairs of Tree Swallows, 9 pairs of House Wrens, and 8 pairs of House Sparrows in his boxes.

Year	1969	1970	1971	1972
Total houses	207	(368)	(412)	(410)
In study area	(115)	182	208	216
Tree Swallows	128	130	172	161
Mountain Bluebirds	3	8	12	25
House Sparrows	11	11	17	48
House Wrens	2	0	0	2
Total occupied	134	145*	191**	213***
Intact, empty	11	15	12	2
Damaged, empty	11	15	12	
Damaged empty	62	22	5	1
Occupancy rate	65%	80%	91%	98.7%
Tree Swallows banded	10	10		
Tree Swallows banded	193	324	662	664
Mountain Bluebirds banded	10	21	53	157

Note: Statistics are taken from the underlined numbers, not from the numbers in parentheses, since regular checks are now restricted to houses within 60 miles of Saskatoon.

\*By 149 pairs in 1970. In four cases, a house was used successively by two species: two had Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds; 2 had Tree Swallows and House Sparrows.

\*\*By 201 pairs in 1971. Ten houses were used by two species: five had Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds; five had Tree Swallows and House Sparrows.

\*\*\*By 234 pairs in 1972. Twenty-one houses were used by two species: 12 had Tree Swallows and House Sparrows; 7 had Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds; 1 had Mountain Bluebirds and House Sparrows; and 1 had Mountain Bluebirds and House Wrens.

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## NEST RECORDS

Anyone wishing to participate in the Prairie Nest records scheme in 1973 may obtain information and cards from:

H. W. R. Copland,  
Manitoba Museum of Man and  
Nature,  
190 Rupert Ave.,  
Winnipeg Manitoba R3B 0N2.

Have a pen or pencil handy? Why not fill out the questionnaire at the front of this issue?